



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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MCNARY MAN SENTENCED TO 10 YEARS IN FEDERAL PRISON FOR BRUTAL ASSAULT ON FATHER

PHOENIX, ARIZONA —The United States Attorney's Office for the District of Arizona, announced that on January 30, 2004, Tommy Celaya, Jr., 4/30/66, of McNary, Arizona, was sentenced by United States District Court Judge Earl H. Carroll to 117 months in federal prison for the brutal assault on his father to be followed by an additional 17 months for violating his court ordered supervised release imposed as a result of the defendant's prior conviction for stabbing his girlfriend.

The defendant had just been released from a federal halfway house 2 days prior when he brutally attacked his father, Tommy Celaya, Sr. at his residence in McNary, Arizona on May 5, 2003. The father, the defendant, and several others had been drinking in the father's trailer, when the defendant told a woman that they should leave together. She declined. The father told the woman that she did not have to leave. The defendant then hit his father, who was seated in a chair, and knocked him to the floor and began to kick him in the stomach and head. At some point, the defendant dropped a chair, hollowed from a section of a log, on his father.

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As a result of the attack, the father lost a tremendous amount of blood and had broken bones in the facial area. He also suffered cardiac arrest at the hospital but was revived by the staff. The force of the beating knocked the father's left eye completely out of its socket and the doctors had to detach it leaving him sightless in that eye. When the defendant was apprehended, he was still wearing the blood stained boot he used in the assault. He admitted that he may have struck his dad and kicked him a couple of times.

Celaya, Jr. had been found guilty by a jury on November 3, 2003 of Assault Resulting in Serious Bodily Injury. This was the defendant's third violent felony offense and therefore, he was sentenced as a Career Offender. The defendant had been previously convicted of a felony offense in 1988 for stabbing his father with a knife. In 1996, the defendant was convicted and sent to prison for stabbing his girlfriend.

The investigation in this case was conducted by the White Mountain Apache Tribal Police Department and the Fort Apache Agency of the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

The prosecution was handled by Vincent Q. Kirby, Assistant United States Attorney, District of Arizona, Phoenix, Arizona.

CASE NUMBER: CR-03-872-PCT-EHC (Trial)
96CR254-PCT-EHC (Supervised Release Violation)

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